



# BROOKLINE

## Norfolk County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Brookline is a jewel of a suburb. Cheek to jowl with Boston - it has managed to maintain its own identity - a unique mixture of busy streets and rolling countryside, upscale shops and village pubs, gracious apartment buildings and large estates, and home for legions of academic and scientific professionals, who work at the nearby medical centers in Boston. Brookline has staunchly refused to be absorbed by Boston, which surrounds it like a horseshoe. A community of 6.6 square miles and almost 55,000 people. Brookline has kept its town meeting form of government since 1705, when this "Muddy River" farmland of Boston became incorporated and named for the brooks that formed its boundaries.

Among its many unusual resources, Brookline has its own working farm (with farm stand), the oldest country club in the nation, a town golf course, the home in which John F. Kennedy was born, a magnificent park on a hillside overlooking Boston with a wonderful open air skating rink and marvelous transportation museum, and numerous neighborhood parks and playgrounds scattered throughout the Town. Its major retail centers, like Coolidge Corner and Brookline Village, are bustling pedestrian-oriented shopping areas with a variety of shops - antique stores, coffee shops, bookstores, fresh fruit and vegetable markets, delicatessens and restaurants. Along with offering both a city atmosphere and a feeling of being in the country, there is a wonderful mix of people in Brookline: elderly, minorities, immigrants from many lands, young families and college students. It is said that the student body at Brookline High School -- a nationally renowned institution -- includes students from more than 50 different countries.

Although predominantly residential, Brookline is anxious to attract new commercial development, and in just the last two years, the Town has amended its zoning to encourage new growth along its major thoroughfares. With its good schools (both public and private), good transportation

(several branches of the MBTA Green Line traverse the Town), and good government, Brookline is a choice spot in which to reside or establish a business.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Newton on the west and south and Boston on the east, south, and north. Brookline is 4 miles west of Boston; 36 miles east of Worcester; 38 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and 215 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 6.82 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 6.79 sq. miles

**Population:** 54,718

**Density:** 8,059 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Boston WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....41.5"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Newton, Boston South

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (617) 730-2000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1705

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	30,818		
Democrats	13,561	44.0	%
Republicans	2,799	9.1	%
Other parties	10	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	14,448	46.9	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Brookline town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	57,107	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	57,107	100.0
Male.....	25,832	45.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	2,018	3.5
Female.....	31,275	54.8	Mexican.....	361	0.6
Under 5 years.....	2,639	4.6	Puerto Rican.....	309	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	2,531	4.4	Cuban.....	115	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	2,702	4.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1,233	2.2
15 to 19 years.....	2,706	4.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	55,089	96.5
20 to 24 years.....	5,605	9.8	White alone.....	44,922	78.7
25 to 34 years.....	12,853	22.5	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	8,429	14.8	Total population.....	57,107	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	7,770	13.6	In households.....	55,721	97.6
55 to 59 years.....	2,819	4.9	Householder.....	25,594	44.8
60 to 64 years.....	1,945	3.4	Spouse.....	9,833	17.2
65 to 74 years.....	3,300	5.8	Child.....	11,410	20.0
75 to 84 years.....	2,473	4.3	Own child under 18 years.....	9,131	16.0
85 years and over.....	1,335	2.3	Other relatives.....	1,542	2.7
Median age (years).....	34.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	244	0.4
18 years and over.....	47,604	83.4	Nonrelatives.....	7,342	12.9
Male.....	21,019	36.8	Unmarried partner.....	1,083	1.9
Female.....	26,585	46.6	In group quarters.....	1,386	2.4
21 years and over.....	45,876	80.3	Institutionalized population.....	544	1.0
62 years and over.....	8,194	14.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	842	1.5
65 years and over.....	7,108	12.4	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	2,692	4.7	Total households.....	25,594	100.0
Female.....	4,416	7.7	Family households (families).....	12,227	47.8
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	5,615	21.9
One race.....	55,860	97.8	Married-couple family.....	9,833	38.4
White.....	46,304	81.1	With own children under 18 years.....	4,481	17.5
Black or African American.....	1,566	2.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,829	7.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	71	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	962	3.8
Asian.....	7,325	12.8	Nonfamily households.....	13,367	52.2
Asian Indian.....	932	1.6	Householder living alone.....	9,395	36.7
Chinese.....	3,509	6.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	2,584	10.1
Filipino.....	143	0.3	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	5,805	22.7
Japanese.....	1,302	2.3	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	5,161	20.2
Korean.....	861	1.5	Average household size.....	2.18	(X)
Vietnamese.....	109	0.2	Average family size.....	2.86	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	469	0.8	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	16	-	Total housing units.....	26,413	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	9	-	Occupied housing units.....	25,594	96.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	4	-	Vacant housing units.....	819	3.1
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	2	-	occasional use.....	189	0.7
Some other race.....	578	1.0	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	1,247	2.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:</i> <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	25,594	100.0
White.....	47,340	82.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	11,583	45.3
Black or African American.....	1,873	3.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	14,011	54.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	265	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.39	(X)
Asian.....	7,874	13.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.00	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	45	0.1			
Some other race.....	1,045	1.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 447

Conventional Federal: 439

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 109

Federal (Section 8): 401



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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Brookline is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 9 and 30 and U.S. Route 1. The Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90) runs just north of the town boundary and is accessible at the Allston-Brighton interchange.

### Rail

MBTA subway service is available on the C (Cleveland Circle) and D (Riverside) branches of the Green Line. From Brookline Village, the travel time to Kenmore is 6 min.; to Government Center: 19 min; no MBTA parking available. From Longwood to Kenmore, travel time is 4 min.; to Government Center, 17 min.; no MBTA parking available. Passenger rail service to Worcester, Springfield, Providence, and points beyond is available on Amtrak in adjacent Boston.

### Bus

Brookline is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to Kenmore and Forest Hills Station on the Green Line and to Harvard Square. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled. Peter Pan Bus Lines, operating from Boston to Worcester, stops in Brookline every two hours, M-F.

### Other

Boston docks and Logan International Airport are easily accessible, providing excellent shipping service by sea and air.



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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Brookline Historical Society

347 Harvard Street

(617) 566-5747

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

99 Warren Street

(617) 566-1689

John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site

83 Beals Street

(617) 566-7937

Longyear Museum & Historical Society

120 Seaver Street

(617) 277-8943

Museum of Transportation

15 Newton Street

(617) 522-6140

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)





# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Bournewood Hospital  
Brookline Hospital  
Human Resource Institute  
Pine Manor Jr. College Inf.

### Long Term Care

Brentwood Nursing Home Inc  
Chamberlain Nursing Home  
Coolidge House Nursing Care Center.  
Mediplex Of Brookline

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Wellman House Rest Home  
Winthrop Road Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.